

Washington, DC - Committed to strengthening America's middle class and creating new jobs, the Populist Caucus today sent a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer encouraging them to pass a strong jobs bill to expand the infrastructure investments previously made as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"As members of the Populist Caucus, a Caucus dedicated to job creation, we urge you to pass a strong jobs bill that will build upon the infrastructure investment in the Stimulus Package and create good paying, quality jobs for America's hard working men and women," the letter states. "We believe that despite economic growth, it is clear that Americans on Main Street are still suffering. The country needs a strong jobs bill that focuses on Main Street workers and small businesses, which are the driving force of our nation's economy."

The letter was signed by 19 members of the Populist Caucus, including Chairman Bruce Braley (IA-01), and Vice Chairs Keith Ellison (MN-05) and Betty Sutton (OH-13). Other Populist Caucus members signing the letter were Reps. Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), Bob Filner (CA-51), Leonard Boswell (IA-03), Mike Michaud (ME-02), Linda T. Sanchez (CA-39), Lloyd Doggett (TX-25), Phil Hare (IL-17), Mazie Hirono (HI-02), Hank Johnson (GA-04), Steve Kagen (WI-08), Dave Loebsack (IA-02), Carol Shea-Porter (NH-01), Peter Welch (VT-At Large), John Yarmuth (KY-03), Jackie Speier (CA-12) and Tom Pierello (VA-05).

The full text of the letter is below:

December 4th, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader, House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

Thank you both for your continued leadership during these tough economic times. As members of the Populist Caucus, a Caucus dedicated to job creation, we urge you to pass a strong jobs bill that will build upon the infrastructure investment in the Stimulus Package and create good paying, quality jobs for America's hard working men and women.

As you know, at the beginning of November it was reported that the nation's unemployment rate

had risen to 10.2%. This was the first time since 1983 that the unemployment rate had risen above 10%. This comes with a net loss of 219,000 jobs in September and a net loss of 190,000 jobs in October, which was the 22nd month of consecutive job loss. We believe that despite economic growth, it is clear that Americans on Main Street are still suffering. The country needs a strong jobs bill that focuses on Main Street workers and small businesses, which are the driving force of our nation's economy.

We urge you to pass a strong jobs bill that focuses on increasing employment opportunities for the millions of Americans that are out of work. Please feel free to contact any of us if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bruce Braley
Keith Ellison
Betty Sutton
Marcy Kaptur
Bob Filner
Leonard Boswell
Mike Michaud
Linda T. Sanchez
Lloyd Doggett
Phil Hare
Mazie Hirono
Hank Johnson
Steve Kagen
Dave Loebsack
Carol Shea-Porter
Peter Welch
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Tom Pierello

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